

U.S. Department of Energy
Environmental Management Advisory Board

End-States Project Team

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Team Members

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Background

- As a result of the Environmental Management (EM) "Top-to-Bottom" report ten project teams were formed to address issues identified in the EM program.
- Project 7 - The Risk Based End-States (RBES) project was formed to address the need for a scientifically and technically sound cleanup strategy.

Background

- The goal of the EM risk based end-states project is to change the current cleanup approach from one that is based on compliance with hundreds or thousands of individual independent requirements and actions to one that is based on risk based end-states, and a clearly defined and coordinated path forward.

Exploring the End-State

- The Team held discussions with:
 - EM Officials
 - Stakeholders, and
 - officials in states affected by RBES
- The Team also reviewed several RBES documents to include:
 - End-States Policy and Guidance
 - Site Self Assessment Report
 - Variance Report, and
 - The Implementation Plan

Areas of Concern

- The importance of community and local government involvement
- Establishing trust with community, local government, and regulators
- Creating incentives
- Handling resistance when obtaining regulatory agreement
- The process used to evaluate end-states decisions and determining if change is needed

Observations/Findings

- DOE has done a good job of interacting with interested parties, especially regulators, during the development of the Risk Based End-States Policy and Guidance Documents and the Implementation Plan while keeping to a rigorous schedule.

Observations/Findings

- DOE must obtain adequate and meaningful input from regulators, local government and stakeholders.
- It is critical that the regulators be actively involved in the assessment of the variance between the End-States Vision and current regulatory drivers.

Observations/Findings

- It is important that the process of risk assessment be based on realistic and appropriate, yet conservative assumptions.
- Local Government should have the opportunity to “to be at the table” throughout the end-states process.

Observations/Findings

- When determining whether to pursue a variance to a federal facilities agreement (FFA), record of decision (ROD) or other regulatory documents DOE should conduct a thorough evaluation of many factors.

Observations/Findings

- Despite extensive outreach, there is still significant skepticism and a lack of trust among external parties about DOE's intentions. DOE must work to improve the receptiveness of regulators and the community.

Conclusion

- The End-States Team agrees that achieving an end-state that is risk based is an important consideration in protecting public health and the environment, but believes that the Teams findings should be considered in order for DOE's evaluation to be credible and for future decisions to be implemented.